

10-1998

## Under the Dome - October 1998

McKissick Museum--University of South Carolina

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# UNDER the DOME

McKissick Museum • University of South Carolina • October 1998

## Mexican Masks of the 20th Century

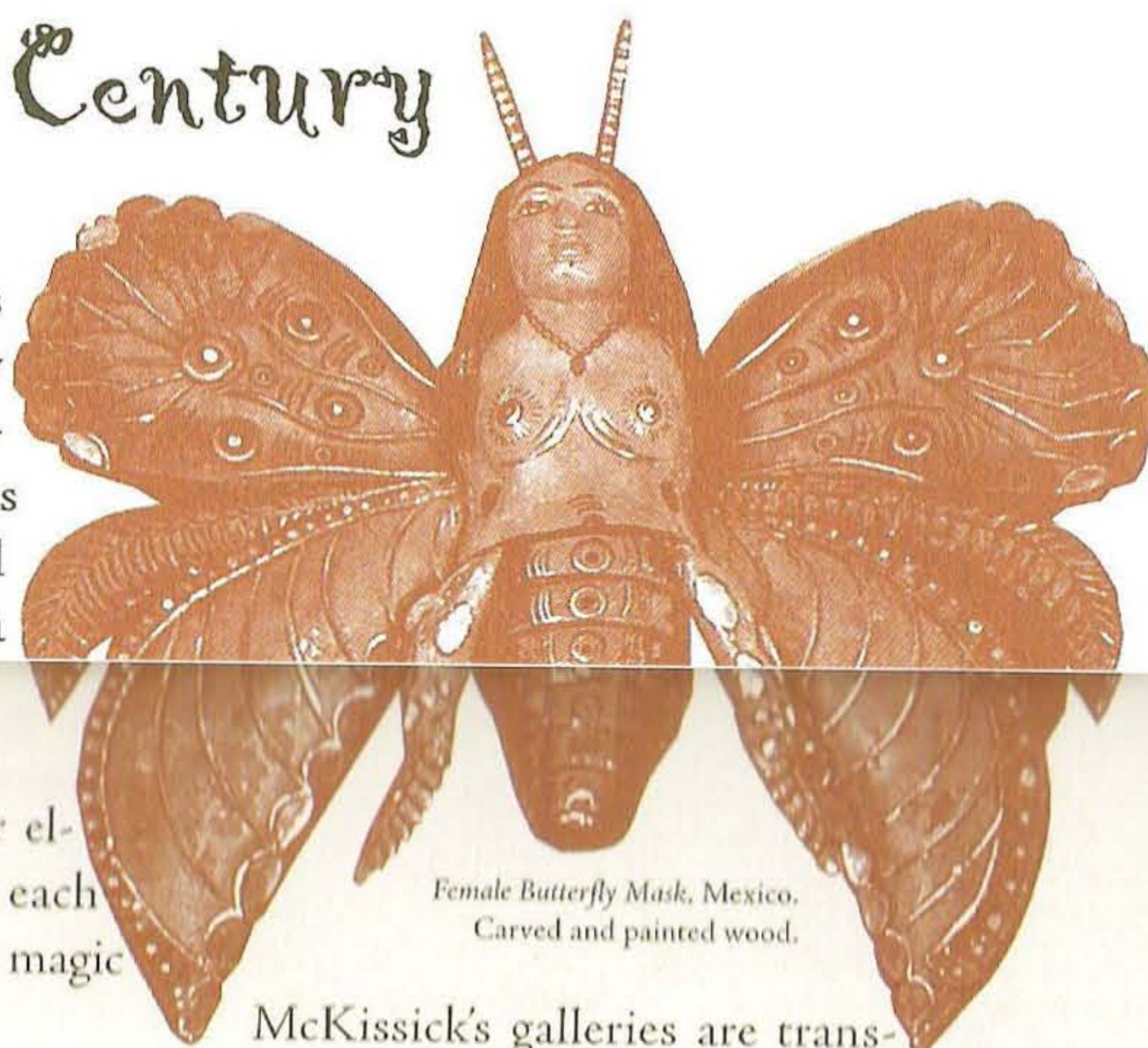
Putting on a mask transforms the wearer. Masks have been used for many purposes throughout history: to work magic spells, to protect from evil, to inspire fear, to reflect social status, to mock or jeer, and often to amuse.

Mask-making is most often a part-time activity in Mexico, pursued by farmers, carpenters and laborers who have learned the skills of the tradition from their fathers and grandfathers. The mask-makers are generally poor, but are highly respected for their wisdom because they know all of the stories and appropriate features for each of the many characters. While masks are made in many different regions of Mexico, there are a few places where demand is high enough

to support a few full-time artisans who have become internationally known. Usually, the masks are unsigned. However regional styles may be identifiable, and individual work may be recognized within a region.

Ugly or beautiful, horrifying or elegant, crude or sophisticated, each mask is filled with mystery and magic as part of a living tradition.

In conjunction with the exhibition *Mexican Masks of the 20th Century*, McKissick will be hosting a "South of the Border" celebration. Delight in the music of a traditional mariachi band and enjoy festive cuisine, as



Female Butterfly Mask, Mexico.  
Carved and painted wood.

McKissick's galleries are transformed into the exciting and colorful streets of Mexico. Our fiesta, featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, will be held on Thursday, September 24 from 7-9pm. McKissick members are admitted free; non-member admission is \$5 per individual. ♦

## TRADITIONAL CRAFT WORKSHOP SERIES



This fall McKissick once again offers an exciting line-up of craft workshops designed to educate folks about the crafts presented and the interesting traditions from which they come. Each participant will enjoy learning from experienced craftspeople, selected for their background in teaching and their strong ties to these crafts. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the region's rich cultural history while enjoying hands-on production of some beautiful and functional works of art. ♦

*Leola Wright demonstrates the art of sweetgrass basket making at the 1997 Fall Folklife Festival*

### Sweetgrass Basket Making with Leola Wright

September 12, 1-5pm

Leola Wright has been making sweetgrass baskets since she was 5 years old and has been a fulltime basket maker for the past twenty-four years. In 1992, she participated in the McKissick Apprentice Program. She has also been a guest lecturer and demonstrator for many cultural organizations, including Historic Columbia Foundation, the Richland County Public Library, and, for the past three years, the McKissick Museum Fall Folklife Festival. Fee: \$45 (limited to twelve participants).

### Kudzu Paper Making with Nancy Lee Basket

November 21, 1-3:30pm

Nancy Basket, who is an accomplished pine needle basket maker, began experimenting with kudzu when she moved back to South Carolina. She first began weaving it into baskets but then decided to try paper. It was with the paper that she realized the potential of this readily abundant medium. Nancy has participated in the South Carolina Arts Commission Artist-in-Residence Program, helped establish the state Artisans Center in Walterboro, and has demonstrated at the McKissick Museum Fall Folklife Festival twice. Fee: \$15.



# 1998 FALL FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

The 1998 Fall Folklife Festival: "I made this..." is organized around the themes of pottery, poetry, and politics to coincide with our major exhibition, "I made this jar..." *The Life and Works of the Enslaved African-American Potter, Dave*, and will feature culturally diverse exhibitors who will show and tell visitors how southerners often have looked to craft, foodways, music and oral traditions as opportunities to express their views about the world around them. McKissick Museum is staging this event to celebrate the ingenuity and persevering spirit of southerners who have found so many ways to have their say. Because the festival is thematically linked to an exhibit about an African-American potter, Dave, who worked in Edgefield County over thirty years prior to the Civil war, this year's event will highlight regional potters and the folk arts African Americans have pioneered as a means of participating more fully in the economic religious and civic life of the region.

The Fall Folklife Festival is a highly interpretive celebratory event featuring professional traditional craftspeople and performers. Designed to increase awareness of Southern folk traditions, the festival honors folk craft, music and foodways as living, thriving cultural experiences. It not only benefits the artists by offering them public venues, but it also benefits the general public attending the event who learn about the many folk art traditions still practiced in the South. This family-oriented event also provides an opportunity for inter-generational activities, with face-to-face interaction between visitors and presenters, who can learn from each other and explore common interests. The festival also promotes cross-cultural understanding and respect, providing the public with an occasion to visit and learn more about Native American, African-American and Euro-American cultures.

In addition, the 1998 Fall Folklife Festival aims to challenge people to think about how culture and politics affect one other in the South as well as heighten awareness of the difficulties many persons, particularly African Americans, have sometimes faced trying to become respected citizens and a part of the great experiment in democracy that is the United States of America. We do this by bringing attention to the creativity and resourcefulness that Native Americans, African Americans, women, and people living in rural parts of the region have shown over the years in making their ideas, feelings, and voices heard. In the case of



Dave, an enslaved African-American potter who worked in Edgefield County over a period of thirty-some years before the Civil War, we find a highly capable artisan who often signed his name to and wrote rhymed verses on the monumental storage jars he turned. Whether referencing civic holidays like the Fourth of July or Biblical stories, Dave's verses offer a poignant commentary on what it must have felt like to be African American in that historical period.

McKissick Museum's 1998 Fall Folklife Festival will take place on October 10, 1998, on the University of South Carolina historic Horseshoe, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Admittance to the festival is free to all McKissick members, and for non-members, \$5.00 per family (admits four), \$2.00 per individual. Commemorative t-shirts are \$10.00. ♦

Left: Tom Boozer, decoy carver; and above: storyteller Carolyn E. White

Almost fifty years after the death of painter Henry Salem Hubbell, the art world has again found room for his exquisite paintings and those of other late-19th and early 20th-century painters who deeply believed in the concept of "beauty." Hubbell and his contemporaries were part of the last generation of American artists who were trained in Paris before Modernism radically changed the definition of art. McKissick Museum's exhibition *The Figurative Paintings of Henry Salem Hubbell: An Elegance Rediscovered* will showcase eighty large and small paintings, studies and sketches by this master artist.

On November 7 at 6 p.m.—the day of the exhibition's celebratory reception—renowned scholar William H. Gerdts will present a slide talk in the museum's auditorium on the place of Henry Salem Hubbell among the Giverny Circle of American Impressionists.

## THE FIGURATIVE PAINTINGS OF HENRY SALEM Hubbell AN ELEGANCE REDISCOVERED

Dr. Gerdts, author of *Monet's Giverny: An Impressionist Colony* and other acclaimed books on American art, has contributed an illuminating foreword to the exhibition catalog. He writes that "above all, Hubbell is identified with impeccable images of feminine loveliness... true images of radiant beauty, which today's public, reprising the appreciation he received during his lifetime, are increasingly continuing to enjoy." Hubbell's 1909 masterwork, *The Orange Robe* (illustrated here), exemplifies the appealing style that brought him great success both in France and in America.

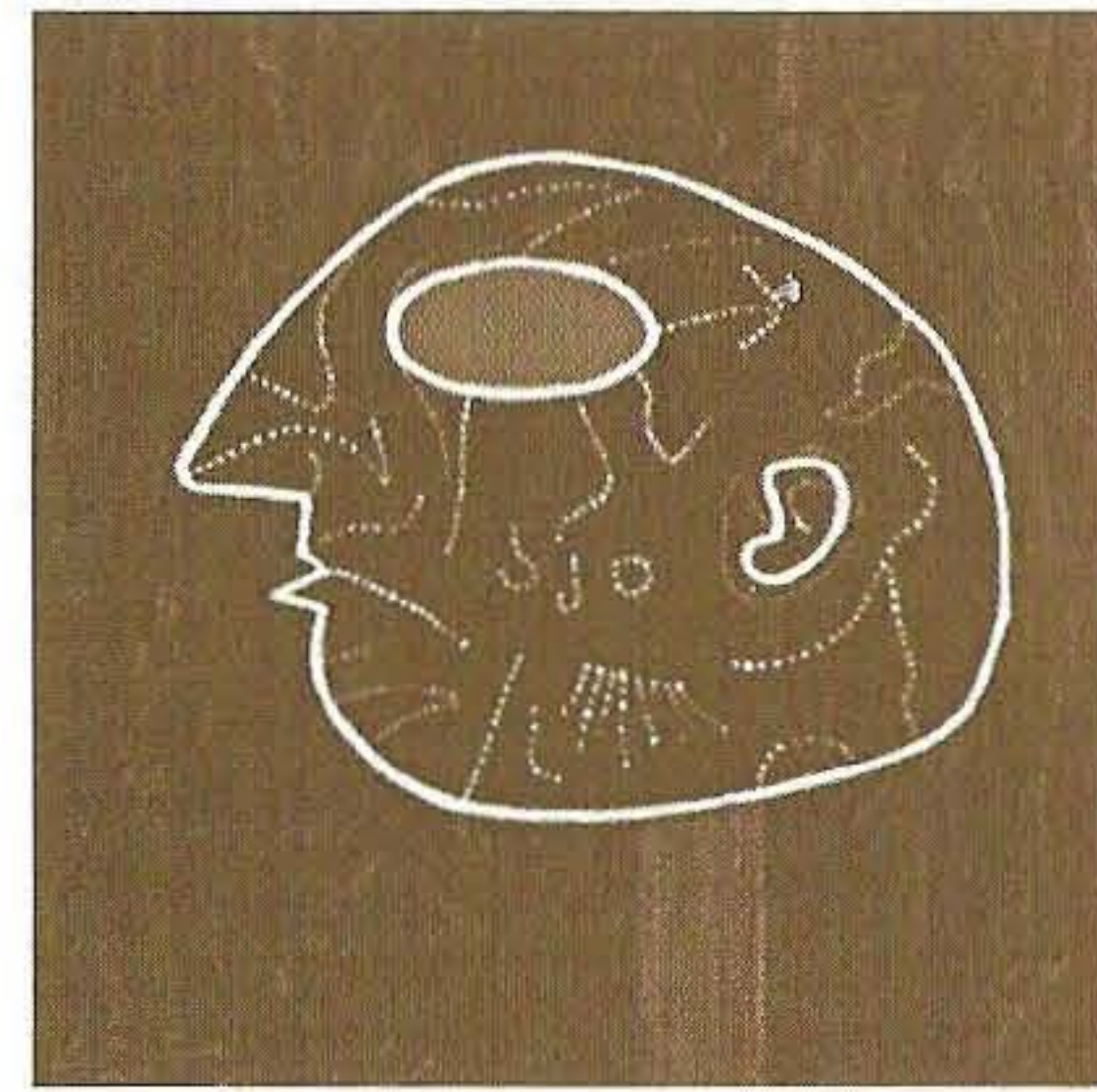
Dr. Gerdts' talk is co-sponsored by the USC Department of Art, and both students and the general public are invited. There is no admission charge, but seating is limited. ♦



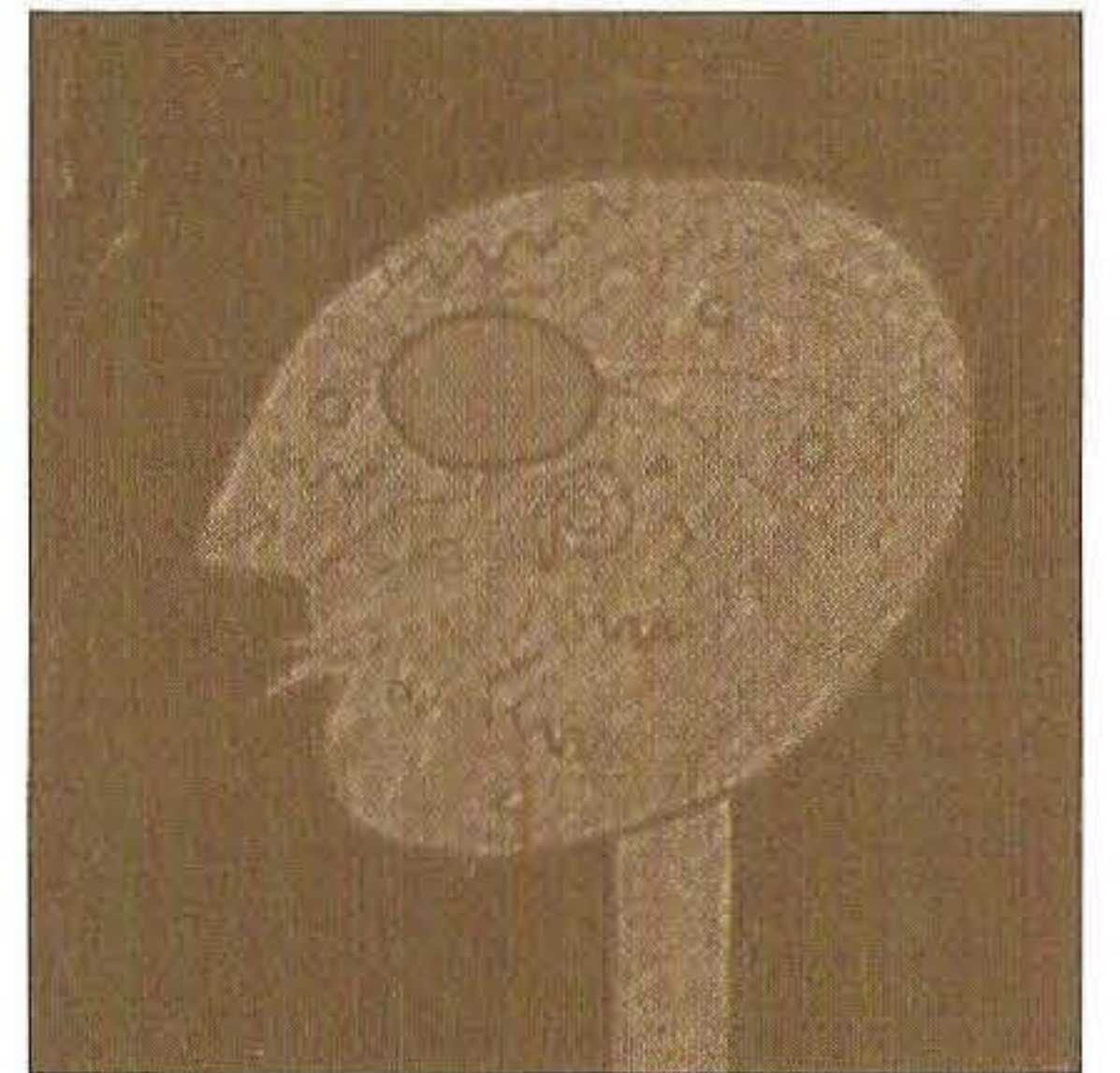
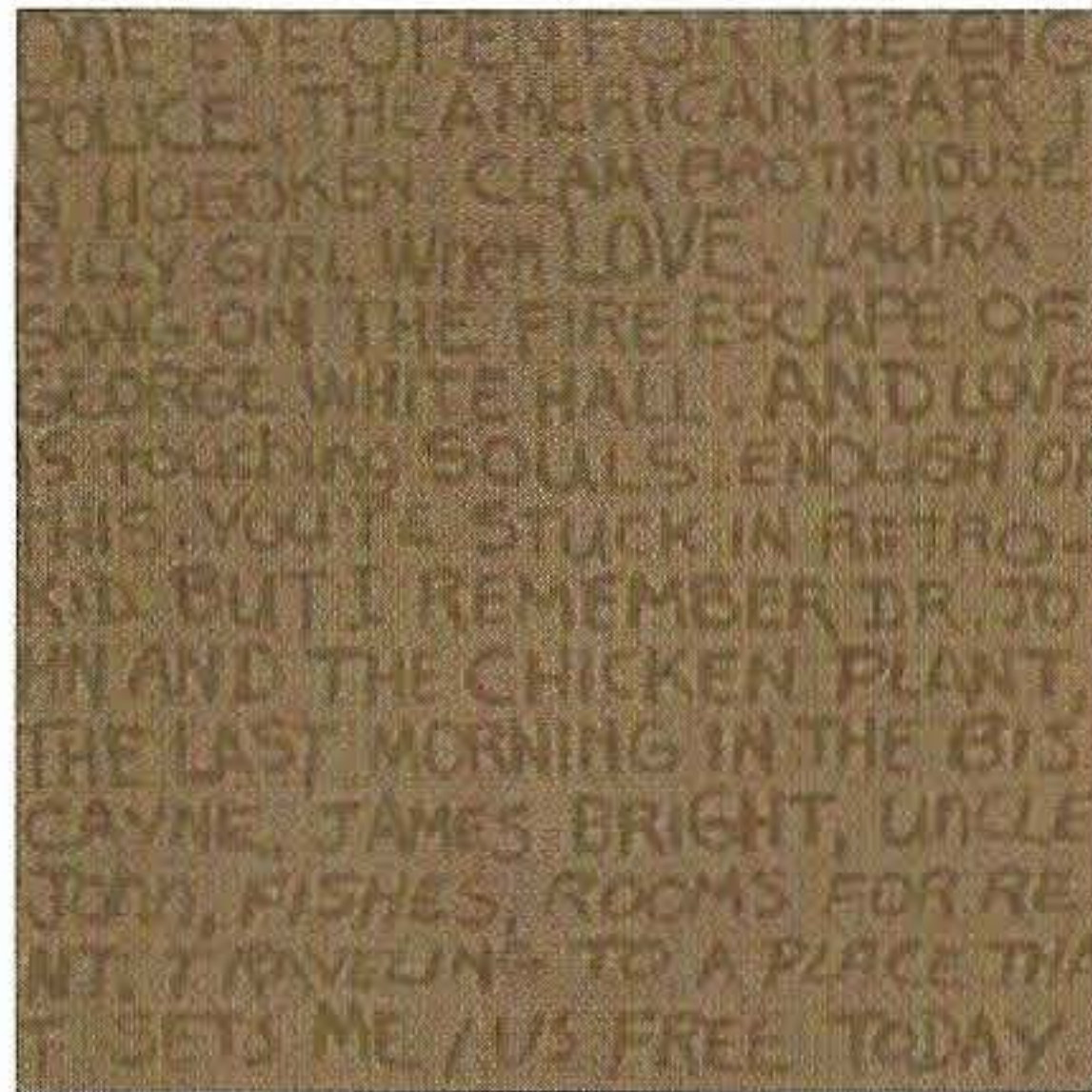
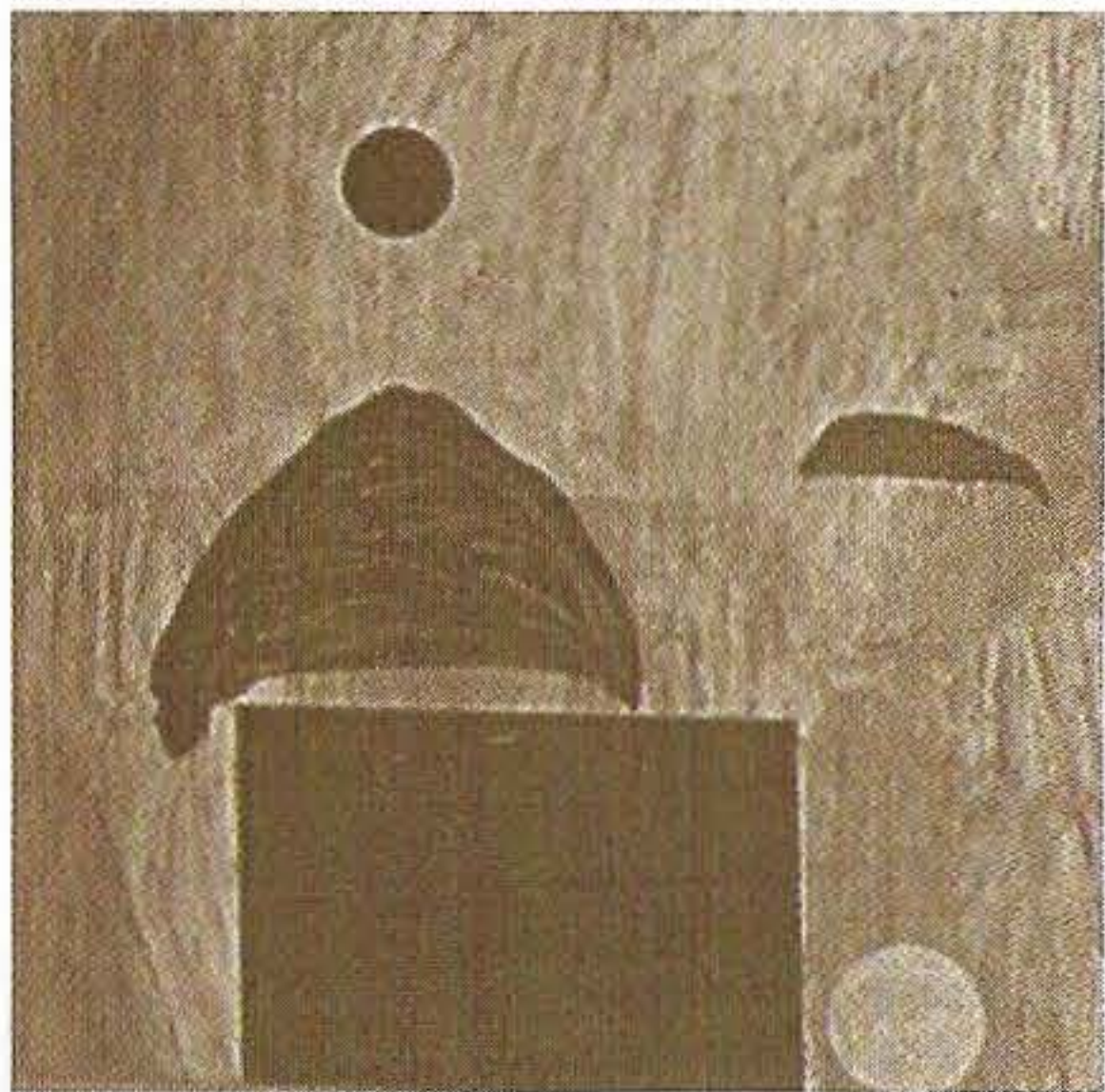
Henry Salem Hubbell, *The Orange Robe*, 1909  
Collection of Hon. Marilyn and Mr. Michael Memello  
Painted at Giverny and shown at the 1909 Paris Salon.



## Tom Stanley: en route to Hamlet



Tom Stanley,  
*en route to Hamlet*, #12.



Tom Stanley, Director of the Winthrop University Galleries since 1990, is an active artist who has continually worked on his "free floating narrative" called "en route to Hamlet." Growing from 10 panels in 1993, to 55 elements in 1996, a new version of Stanley's work of art will open in McKissick's second floor-south gallery on November 22.

As viewers follow the flow of the images, Stanley intends that they allow their minds to freely associate thoughts and feelings, just as Stanley did

on his drives through the countryside. The work's title was inspired by the small town of Hamlet, North Carolina, his actual road trip destination. On a trip through the Carolina sand hills a traveler might glimpse highway signs, ruined buildings, billboards and advertisements—some whole images, others lingering only as impressions of shapes, colors and lettering. Stanley's work is a metaphor for the way we perceive, and make visual connections to the past and future. ♦

### Autumn Activities at the MUSEUM OF EDUCATION

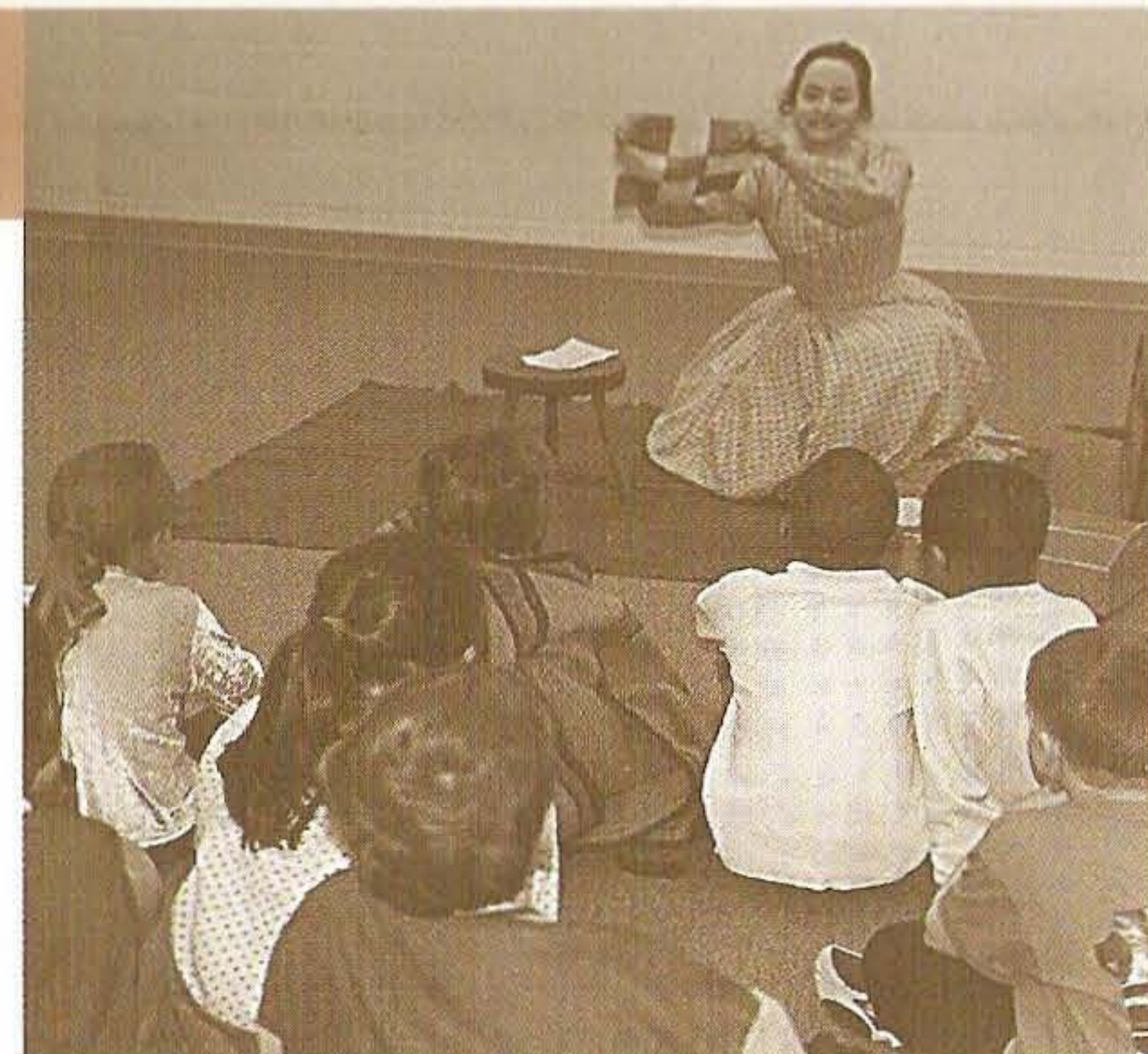
THE MUSEUM OF EDUCATION continues to acquire items for the Contemporary Educational Leaders Exhibition, which has proven to be our most popular exhibit. The current exhibition highlights the career of Dr. Howard Gardner, Professor of Education at Harvard University and author of *Frames of Mind*, *The Unschooled Mind*, and *Leading Minds*. Dr. Gardner's "advice to educators" statement, donated to the Museum for its archival collection, has already proven to be of great value for our holdings. Gardner's comments provide insight for both educators and parents:

"I believe that there are important virtues that are worth teaching and susceptible to understanding. And I would like to think that my own research points to ways in which we can educate for understanding. I begin with two important findings: 1) We all have minds but these minds differ significantly from one another. Throughout most of history, these differences have been ignored in educational circles. I propose to take them very seriously and, indeed, to build on the differences. 2) If one tries to cover too much material, one sacrifices the opportunity to inculcate understanding. But if one is willing to probe deeply rather than broadly, it is possible to stimulate deeper understanding of particular topics and, more importantly, to awaken the passion for understanding."

The Museum is pleased with the success of the Biographical Imaginations living-history project. This experimental program, sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation, brings educational history and biography to children throughout the Midlands while also integrating material from the language arts and social studies cur-

riculum. Begun in 1997, performances were scheduled in schools during the spring as part of a pilot phase. The four theatre productions depict the lives of South Carolina educators, including Moses Waddel and the Willington Academy of 1838; Eliza Ann Summers, a teacher of an 1867 African-American community on Hilton Head Island; a Jeanes teacher in rural 1920s South Carolina; and L. P. Hollis, the legendary Greenville superintendent of the 1920s-1950s.

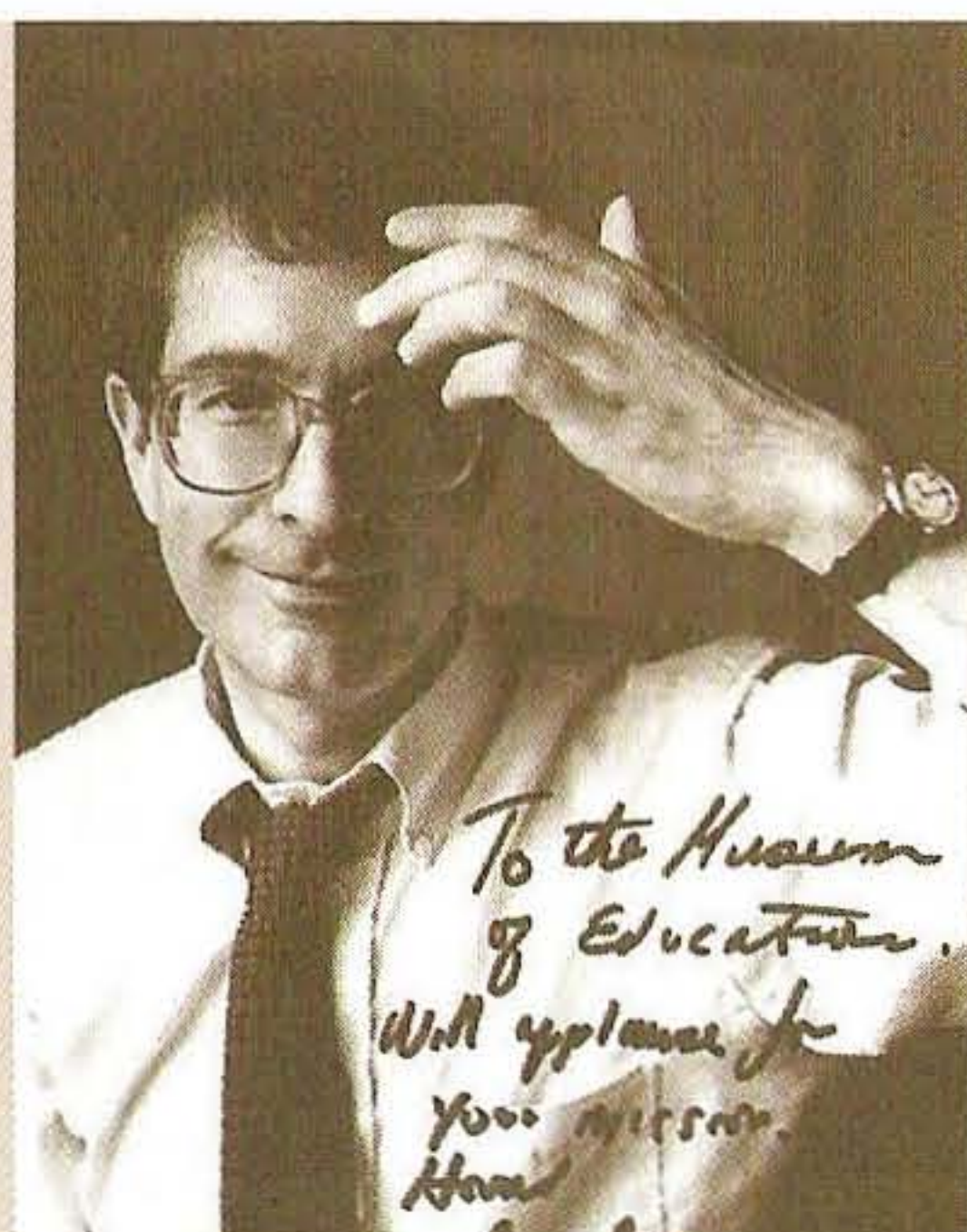
On Friday, October 2, the Museum will stage its **Biographical Imaginations Celebration**, a showcase of the productions to school children, area educators, and members of the community. Distinguished educator and aesthetician Maxine Greene of New York City's Teachers College and Lincoln Center will serve as keynote speaker for an afternoon lecture at the Museum; Biographical Imaginations presentations will be staged for students at McKissick Museum. The event is free and open to the public.



Joanna Western portrays Eliza Ann Summers, a teacher of an 1867 African-American community on Hilton Head Island, during a Biographical Imaginations presentation.

In 1988, the Museum of Education helped to organize an "artistic intelligences" conference with Dr. Howard Gardner, Museum patron Harold Taylor, and recent Contemporary Educational Leaders donors Elliot Eisner and Maxine Greene. The Howard Gardner (right) exhibition will be on display until March 1, 1999, and Maxine Greene (far right) will visit on October 2.

THE MUSEUM OF EDUCATION IS SUPPORTED BY THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION WITH ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM THE JOHN HAWLEY TRUST.

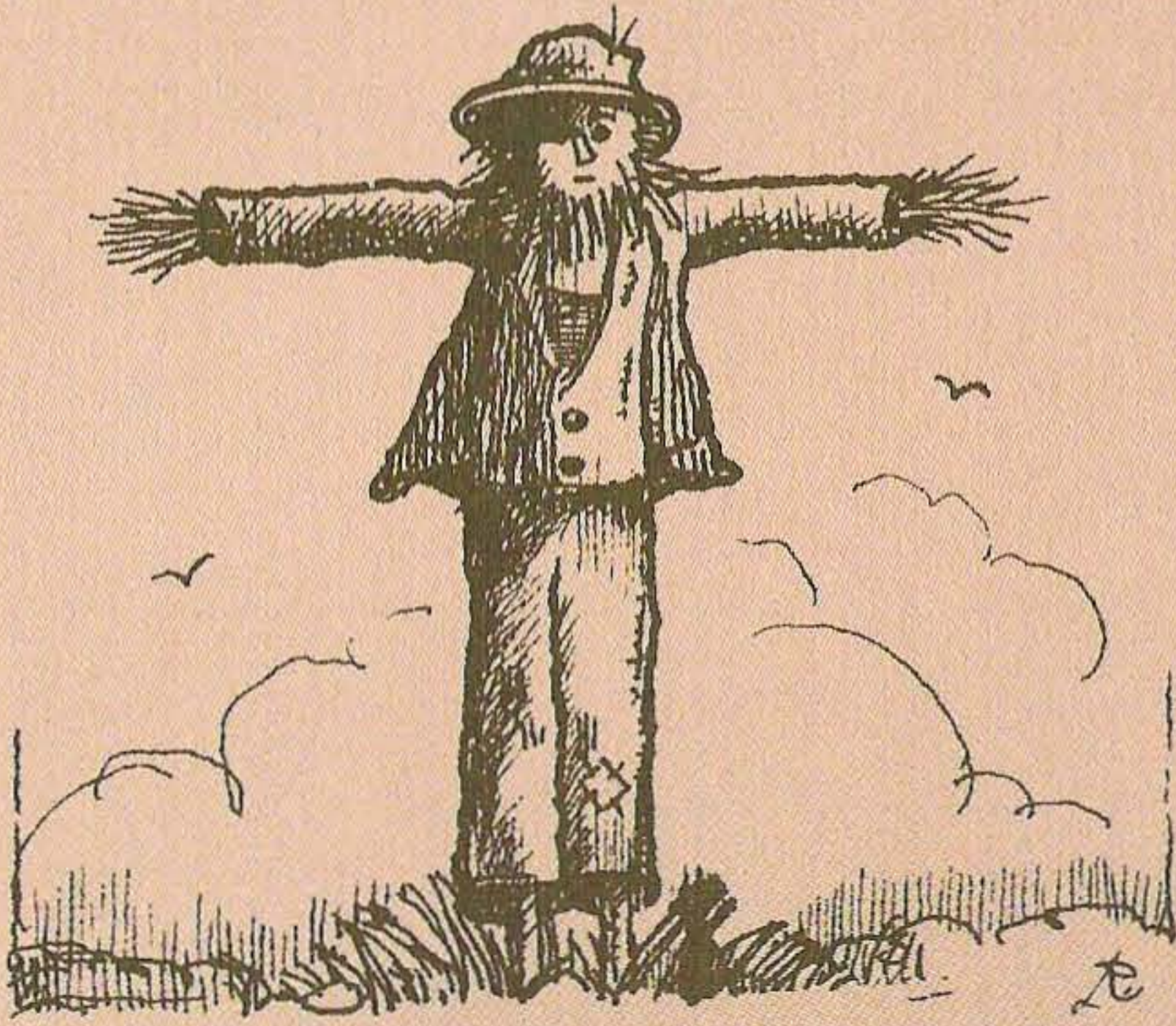


The Museum of Education greatly appreciates donations of teachers' diaries and assorted classroom materials; in addition, the museum seeks volunteers to assist the Biographical Imaginations actors as they visit area schools. To discuss a donation or to serve as a Biographical Imaginations aide, please call 777-5741. ♦



# fall children's programming

*It's a great time to be a kid at McKissick! The fall is filled with exciting activities for kids only (and for those parents young at heart). Each month offers a great opportunity to pique your child's interest in exploring the world around us.*



## SCARECROW MAKING FOR KIDS

October 31 – 1-3pm

\$5 per member, \$7 per non-member

How did the tradition of scarecrows begin? Why do scarecrows only show up in the fall? Do they still serve a purpose today or are they simply remnants of a time gone by? You'll find out when you and your parent join us to usher in the fall season with this fun, autumnal tradition. All supplies provided.

## HOLIDAY FEST FOR CHILDREN

December 12 – 1-3pm

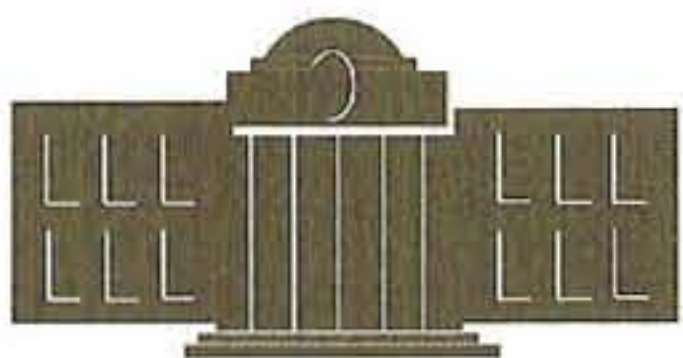
\$5 per member, \$7 per non-member

The holiday season is celebrated in many different ways around the world, in many ways similar and in others very different from our own traditions. Bring your child for a day of discovery as we join in this multicultural celebration of the holidays. Participants will have the opportunity to make crafts, eat treats, and learn music typical of various other countries. Children may be dropped off while parents finish up their last minute shopping or they may relax in the parents' lounge. (Recommended for children ages 6 and up.)



# McKissickMuseum

University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208



The museum is located at the head of the University of South Carolina's historic Horseshoe in the heart of the campus. All exhibitions are free and open to the public.

Gallery hours are 9 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and weekends, 1 to 5 pm. Metered parking is available on all adjacent streets as well as in the lower level of the Pendleton Street Garage.

A number of volunteer opportunities are available at the museum. Call 777-7251 for additional information on membership, tours, programs, and exhibits. Visit our home page on the internet at: <http://www.cla.sc.edu/mcks/index.html>

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